


Chairman Linda W. Cropp

at the request of the Mayor

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Chairman, Linda W. Cropp, introduced the following bill, at the request of the Mayor,
Which was referred to the Committee on _____.

To create a uniform consultation referral form to be used by all health benefit plans to
simplify the referral process for health insurers and health care providers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
That this Act may be cited as the "Uniform Consultation Referral Forms Act of 2001."

Sec. 2. Definitions.

For the purposes of this act, the term:

(1) "Health benefit plan" means any accident and health insurance policy or certificate, hospital and medical services corporation contract, health maintenance organization subscriber contract, plan provided by a multiple employer welfare arrangement, or plan provided by another benefit arrangement. The term "health benefit plan" does not mean accident only, credit, or disability insurance; coverage of Medicare services or federal employee health plans, pursuant to contracts with the United States government; Medicare supplemental or long-term care insurance; dental only or vision only insurance; specified disease insurance; hospital confinement indemnity coverage; limited benefit health coverage; coverage issued as a supplement to liability insurance, insurance arising out of a workers' compensation or similar law; automobile medical payment insurance; medical expense and loss of income benefits; or insurance under which benefits are payable with or without regard to fault and that is statutorily required to be contained in any liability insurance policy or equivalent self-insurance.

(2) "Health insurer" means any person that provides one or more health benefit plans or insurance in the District of Columbia, including an insurer, a hospital and medical services corporation, a fraternal benefit society, a health maintenance organization, a multiple employer welfare arrangement, or any other person providing a plan of health insurance subject to the authority of the Commissioner.

(3) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department of Insurance and Securities Regulation.

1 Sec. 3. Uniform Consultation Referral Forms.

2 (a) This section applies to all health insurers that issue or deliver individual or
3 group health benefit plans in the District of Columbia.

4 (b) All health insurers that require insureds to have a written referral to receive
5 consultation services shall use the uniform consultation referral form adopted by the
6 Commissioner as the sole instrument for referrals for consultation services.

7 (c) The uniform consultation referral form shall be properly completed by the
8 health care provider that refers the insured for consultation services.
9

10 Sec. 4. Regulations.

11 (a) The Commissioner shall issue rules and regulations necessary to implement
12 the provisions of this chapter which shall include a uniform consultation referral form for
13 use by health insurers that require enrollees or subscribers to have a written referral to
14 receive consultation services.

15 (b) The Commissioner may waive the requirements of regulations adopted under
16 subsection (a) of this section for the use of uniform consultation referral forms for an
17 entity that uses the forms solely for internal purposes.
18

19 Sec. 5. Applicability.

20 Health insurers must comply with this statute beginning with referrals issued one
21 hundred twenty (120) days after the promulgation of final regulations.
22

23 Sec. 6. Fiscal impact statement.

24 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
25 impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule
26 Act, approved December 24, 1973. (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Code Section 1-233(c)(3)).
27

28 Sec. 7. Effective date.

29 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto
30 by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), approval by the Financial
31 Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority as provided in section 203(a) of the
32 District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Act of 1995,
33 approved April 17, 1995 (109 Stat. 116; D.C. Code Section 47-392.3(a)), a 30-day period
34 of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia
35 Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Code Section 1-
36 233(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.
37
38
39
40
41